



December, 2002

## **Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission**

The Department of Veterans Affairs is in the midst of a nationwide strategic planning process to ensure that its capital infrastructure is appropriately configured to meet the demand for veterans' health care services over the next 20 years. That planning process, Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES), is a very inclusive one which is designed to generate input from a broad range of VA stakeholders and beneficiaries.

The Secretary has determined that an independent commission should be created to conduct an external assessment of VA's capital asset needs and to assure that stakeholder and beneficiary concerns are fully addressed. The CARES Commission will consider recommendations from VA's Under Secretary for Health, veterans service organizations, individual veterans, Congress, medical school affiliates, VA employees, local government entities, community groups and others. Commission forums will include both Washington-based meetings and public hearings across the country. The Commission is expected to present its findings and recommendations to the Secretary in the fall of 2003.

The CARES Commission will operate as a federal advisory committee, composed of people with expertise in various aspects of health care and particular interest in the efficient delivery of benefits and services to our Nation's veterans. All of the administrative actions to officially establish the Commission, as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, have been taken.

The Secretary has identified ten people to serve as Commission members. They are: Ms. Vernice Ferguson, former executive in VA nursing programs; Mr. Richard Pell, Jr., former VA Deputy Chief of Staff and former Director, Martinsburg VA Medical Center; Mr. John Vogel, former VA Under Secretary for Benefits; Mr. Al Zamberlan, former VHA Regional Director; MG Michael Wyrick, former Deputy Surgeon General, U.S. Air Force; Mr. Raymond Boland, Wisconsin Secretary of Veterans Affairs and President of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Charles Battaglia, former Staff Director of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs; Dr. John Kendall, Professor of Medicine, Oregon Health and Sciences University; Dr. Joseph Binard, former VA physician and specialist in spinal cord injury treatment; and Dr. Richard McCormick, former Director of Mental Health Care, VA Health Care System of Ohio.

Each of these people will bring the necessary credentials and qualifications to the Commission, as well as the appropriate sensitivity to the Commission's very special mission. The Secretary is expected to formally appoint these people as Commission

members next week. Additional biographical information pertaining to each of them is attached.

Several prominent Americans are being considered for Chair of the Commission, but no final decision on that position has been made. The Secretary is expected to announce his selection for Chair in the very near future.

Attachment

# CARES Commission Members

## Brief Biographies

### 1. Vernice Ferguson, RN, M.A., F.A.A.N., F.R.C.N.

Vernice Ferguson was Senior Fellow in the School of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania, holding the Fagin Family Chair in Cultural Diversity from 1993-1996. Prior to this position, she served for 12 years as the Assistant Chief Medical Director for Nursing Programs in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). In this assignment she was responsible for more than 60,000 nursing personnel. She also served as the Chief Nurse at two VA medical centers and as Chief of the Nursing Department, Clinical Center, at the National Institutes of Health.

Ms. Ferguson is the recipient of eight honorary doctorates and two fellowships: one in physics and one in alcohol studies. She was also the first and immediate past chairperson of the NOVA Foundation which supports scholarships and research grants for nurses of the Department of Veterans Affairs to enhance care to the Nation's veterans.

### 2. Richard Pell, Jr.

Richard Pell, Jr., is currently Senior Vice President of Administration and Chief Compliance Officer of Genesis Health Ventures. He oversees human resources, law, government relations, public relations, marketing, and corporate support services. Prior to joining Genesis in 1998, Mr. Pell was the Director of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Martinsburg, West Virginia, and, before that, the Chief of Staff for the Department of Veterans Affairs for the previous 9 years.

### 3. Al Zamberlan

Mr. Zamberlan has over 37 years of experience in healthcare management, consulting, strategic planning, and new business development. From 1994 to 1996 he served as Vice President of Strategic Planning for Lockheed Martin Information Management Service where he worked with the Department of Veterans Affairs on major automation efforts.

Mr. Zamberlan served the Department of Veterans Affairs from 1962 to 1994 in a variety of positions including the Veterans Health Administration Regional Director for both the Central Region and the Great Lakes Region. As Regional Director he oversaw the operation of numerous medical centers and clinics in each multi-state region. He also served as Director in three VA medical centers.

#### **4. Michael Wyrick, Major General, USAF, Ret.**

General Wyrick has 33 years of leadership experience in managing, reengineering, and downsizing in complex healthcare operations. He currently serves as the leader of a nonprofit association whose mission is to improve emergency preparedness among hospitals, government agencies, and business interests in the National Capital Region in response to the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

General Wyrick also held a number of hospital administrator positions in the United States Air Force and consistently received top ratings from the Joint Commission of Healthcare Organizations. He also served as the Deputy Surgeon General and Chief Operating Officer of the Air Force Health System.

#### **5. Raymond Boland**

Mr. Boland, a Vietnam War veteran, has served as the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs since 1992. As Secretary, he oversees support to Wisconsin's one-half million veterans through a wide-range of programs including loans, grants, health care, and cemetery operations. He is also recognized as a national advocate for ending homelessness among veterans.

Mr. Boland is also the current President of the National Association of State Departments of Veterans Affairs. This association provides a forum for the exchange of information and ideas among State veterans organizations, facilitates reciprocal State services, and seeks to secure uniformity, equality, and efficiency in providing services to veterans in all U.S. states and territories.

#### **6. Charles Battaglia**

Mr. Battaglia has more than 35 years of service in the Executive and Legislative branches of the Federal Government. From 1997 to 2000 he served as the Staff Director of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs where he directed authorization, oversight, and legislative activities for veterans health care and benefits. From the mid-1980s to 1997, Mr. Battaglia served as a senior staff member and Staff Director of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence where he directed Congressional oversight and program and budget reviews of all intelligence agencies. Prior to 1985 he served for 8 years as a senior official at the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Battaglia also had an extensive career as a naval officer where he served on ships of the Atlantic and Pacific fleets and in the offices of the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, the President of the Naval War College, and the Commander of U.S. Naval Forces in Vietnam.

#### **7. Richard McCormick, Ph. D**

Dr. McCormick is currently with Akron/Cleveland Mental Health Associates in Hudson, Ohio where he has developed and directed a group mental health practice that includes national consulting on quality assurance issues in mental health. Dr. McCormick also served the Department of Veterans Affairs from 1972 to 2002 in a variety of positions related to the mental health field including Director of the Mental Health Care Line for the VA Health Care System of Ohio and Co-Chair of the Under Secretary for Health's Committee on the Care of Veterans with Serious Mental Illness.

## **8. Raymond John Vogel**

Mr. Vogel has been President of R. J. Vogel and Associates, a consulting company in Venice, Florida, since 2001. Prior to 2001 he served the Department of Veterans Affairs for 33 years in a variety of capacities. He held the positions of Director at the Medical Centers in Bay Pines, Florida, and Charleston, South Carolina; served as the Under Secretary for Benefits; and he served as Regional Office Director in both Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Portland, Oregon.

An Army veteran, Mr. Vogel holds a Master of Science degree in Government Administration from George Washington University, Washington, DC.

## **9. Joseph E. Binard, MD, FRCSC**

Dr. Joseph Binard is a Senior Staff Research Consultant in Bioengineering and is Clinical Instructor of Urology at the University of Wisconsin. He also serves as a Consulting Urologist for the Oneida Tribe Clinic in Oneida, Wisconsin. A retired U.S. Navy Captain, Dr. Binard served as Commanding Officer in Iceland and Norfolk, Virginia. Prior to retiring from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in 1996, he served as National Director of the Spinal Cord Injury Program in Washington, DC, and as Chief of the Spinal Cord Injury Service at the VA Medical Centers in Hampton, Virginia, and Tampa, Florida.

## **10. John Kendall, MD**

Dr. John Kendall is presently the Dean Emeritus and Professor of Medicine Emeritus, Oregon Health Sciences University. He is also a VA physician and Academic Affiliations Officer for VISN 20, Department of Veterans Affairs. As Dean of Medicine at Oregon from 1983 to 1992, he also served as a staff physician in the endocrinology clinic at the VA Medical Center, Portland.

Dr. Kendall has served as a consultant in multiple local and national capacities. These include President of the Multnomah (Portland) County Medical Society, Delegate from Oregon to the American Medical Association, Chair of the Medical Schools Section of the AMA, and Delegate to the AMA from Oregon Health Sciences University. He has been elected to the Fellowship in the Royal Society of Medicine, and he serves as a member of their Endocrinology and Diabetes Section Council.